

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management**

**West Tavaputs Plateau
Natural Gas Full Field Development Plan
Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

Prepared by the Price Field Office

February 2008



**Selma Sierra
Utah State Director**

**UT-070-05-055
DES 08-06**



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Utah State Office

P.O. Box 45155

Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155

<http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en.html>



IN REPLY REFER TO: UT-070-1310-EJ

Dear Reader:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) invites you to review and comment on the *Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the West Tavaputs Plateau Natural Gas Full Field Development Plan*. Preparation of this DEIS was initiated in August 2005 in response to a full field development proposal by Bill Barrett Corporation and other operators, consisting of 807 natural gas wells on 538 locations and associated infrastructure within a 137,930-acre project area predominantly in Carbon County, Utah. Public scoping was conducted at this time to help the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) identify relevant environmental issues and alternatives to the proposal for its consideration as part of the analysis presented in this Draft EIS.

Prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), implementing regulations, and other applicable law, this document presents the anticipated environmental consequences of developing natural gas resources, as well as alternatives to the proposed development plan designed to address a broad scope of issues related to the affected human environment. Such disclosure will enable the BLM to make an informed decision on the development of natural gas resources on the West Tavaputs Plateau.

Depending on the BLM's ultimate decision, this document may also serve to amend the current land use plan, the *Price River Management Framework Plan*, in order to provide for certain components of the proposed development. Because of this important consideration, the BLM is providing a 90-day period for public review and comment, initiated by the publication of the Notice of Availability (NOA) of this document in the Federal Register.

Subsequent to the review and comment period, the BLM will prepare a Final EIS. The Final EIS will include responses to substantive comments submitted during the review period (expressions of personal preferences or opinions will not receive a response). Such responses often include corrections or revisions to the Draft EIS, while others simply explain their consideration by BLM.

Comments must be submitted to the Price Field Office during the 90-day comment period to ensure their consideration. Public open house meetings will be held in Price, Roosevelt, and in the Salt Lake City area to assist the public in its review of the Draft EIS and to accept written comments. Notice of these meetings will be publicized through various media, including the Utah BLM *Environmental Notification Bulletin Board*, at least 15 days prior to the meetings.

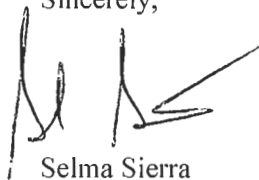
Comments may be submitted electronically by e-mail at www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/price/energy/oil_gas/. Written comments should be sent to:

Bureau of Land Management
Price Field Office
Attn: West Tavaputs Plateau Natural Gas Full Field Development Plan DEIS
125 South 600 West
Price, Utah 84501

It is the BLM's practice to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents available for public review. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information— may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations, businesses, and individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

We appreciate your interest and participation in this environmental analysis and look forward to your comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Selma Sierra', with a stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Selma Sierra
Utah State Director